

18 JUL 1947

Meteorological Research and Development Responsibilities in the Air Forces

Commanding General
Army Air Forces
Washington 25, D. C.
Attention: Deputy Chief of Air Staff for Research
and Development (for Major General
Curtis E. LeMay)

1. With reference to the 24 March 1947 letter from the Deputy Chief of Air Staff, on the above subject, to the Commanding General, Air Materiel Command, Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio, immediate action was taken to activate a new Laboratory having the responsibilities of meteorological research and development, and upper air research, within the Electronic Subdivision of the Engineering Division.

2. In view of the close relationship and interdependence of research in meteorology and research in electromagnetic and compressional wave propagation, action is being taken to reorganize the present Applied Propagation Laboratory of Hartebeek Laboratories into the Atmospheric Laboratory, and expand its functions to include research and development in meteorology and related geophysical fields. This action is desirable not only because of the close relationship of the research involved, but also because it provides a going organization to assume the new responsibilities which were delegated to AMC without the transfer of a going organization to carry them out. At this point it is considered appropriate to point out that the Air Materiel Command is in a position where, for all practical purposes, a meteorological research and development organization is being organized from the ground up, that it will be some time, possibly as much as a year, before a really active part can be played in this work. Considering the importance and extent of the field of research outlined in the letter referred to above, the twenty civilian position vacancies transferred for this work can at best be considered as only a nucleus of the eventual organization that will be needed in this field. The immediate problem, however, will be to find qualified personnel to fill the seventeen remaining of the twenty vacancies transferred, this in itself being no simple problem in view of the worldwide scarcity of highly qualified research per-

1-12-47, Walter D. Heath

to HAF, DC/AS for Res & Dev., "Meteorological Res & Dev Responsibility in the Air Forces", dated

personal in meteorology, and the present keen competition for these personnel.

3. This Command previously asked for 150 top-flight physicists in connection with Upper Air Research. This request was disapproved and is maintained at this time because the requirement still exists not only in connection with Upper Air Research to meet current AEC requirements pertaining to Guided Missiles and associated research and development, but in connection with the responsibilities assigned the Air Materiel Command under paragraph 2 of the referenced letter.

4. At the present time the Electrostatic Division has committed approximately \$1,400,000 during fiscal year 1947 (including Project GPO funds mentioned under paragraph 1 of the referenced letter) on Atmospheric Research. Approximately \$1,000,000 additional has been committed on conventional and electrostatics work research which is closely allied to the atmospheric field.

5. The amount of funds estimated as required to assume these responsibilities during the fiscal year 1948 is \$1,500,000. Although the justification of Project GPO - Meteorological and Electrostatic Research and Development, is not listed in the 2 February 1947 revised issue of the Engineering Division "Justification of Estimates, Fiscal Year 1948", it is listed in the "Justification of Estimates, F.Y. 1948, for Air Corps, Army (about \$4,700,000)", page 154 of the report, Identification number F-44, AF. It is assumed that this amount of funds will be derived by the Assistant Chief of Air Staff -4, and made available for accomplishing the research and development in meteorology and related physical fields.

6. With further reference to funds required for the F.Y. 1949 Project GPO-41, Atmospheric Research and Guided Scientific Research of the upper atmosphere, a total sum of \$4,000,000 has been specified on page 200 of the Engineering Division "Justification of Estimates, Fiscal Year 1949 Research & Development Program", dated 20 May 1947. The amount of funds asked will be required to accomplish the work included in the responsibilities assigned to the Air Materiel Command, and it is recommended that adequate support be given to obtain the amounts needed for the Fiscal Years 1948 and 1949.

1 Incl. - of AFDR-2A
ltr 3-26-47, same subj.

cc to AC/AS-4

H. V. THOMAS
Lieutenant General, U.S.A.
Commanding

Meteorological Research and Development
Responsibilities of the Air Force

Commanding General
Army Air Forces
Washington 25 D. C.

Attention: Deputy Chief of Air Staff for Research
And Development (for Major General
Curtis R. LeMay)

1. With reference to the 26 March 1947 letter from the Deputy Chief of Air Staff, on the above subject, to the Commanding General, Air Material Command, Wright Field, Dayton, this, immediate action was taken to activate a new Laboratory having the responsibilities of meteorological research and development, and upper air research, within the Electronic Subdivision of the Engineering Division.

2. In view of the close relationship and interdependence of research in meteorology and research in electromagnetic and compressional wave propagation, action is being taken to reorganize the present Applied Propagation Laboratory of Watson Laboratories into the Atmospheric Laboratory, and expand its functions to include research and development in meteorology and related geophysical fields. This action is defensible not only because of the close relationship of the research involved, but also because it furnishes a going organization to attack the new responsibilities which were delegated to AMC without the transfer of a going organization to carry them out. At this point it is considered appropriate to point out that the Air Materiel Command is in a position where, for all practical purposes, a meteorological research and development organization is being organized from the ground up, that it will be some time, possibly as much as a year, before a really active part can be played in this work. Considering the importance and extent of the field of research outlined in the letter referred to above, the twenty civilian position vacancies transferred for this work can at best be considered as only a nucleus of the eventual organization that will be needed in this field. The immediate problem, however, will be to find qualified personnel to fill the seventeen remaining of the twenty vacancies transferred, this in itself being no simple problem in view of the worldwide scarcity of highly qualified research per-

ltr to UAAF, DC/AS for Res & Dev., "Meteorological Res & Dev
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sonnel in meteorology, and the present keen competition for those
personnel.

3. This command previously asked for 150 top-flight physicists
in connection with Upper Air Research. This request was disapproved
and is mentioned at this time because the requirement still exists
not only in connection with Upper Air Research to meet overall AMC
requirements pertaining to Guided Missiles and aeronautic research
and development, but in connection with responsibilities assigned the
Air Materiel Command under paragraph 2 a of the referenced letter.

4. At the present time the Electronic Subdivision has com-
mitted approximately \$1,600,000 during fiscal year 1947 (including
Budget Project 680 funds mentioned under paragraph 2 of the referenced
letter) on Atmospheric Research. Approximately \$500,000 additional
has been committed on compressional and electromagnetic wave research
which is closely allied to the atmospheric field.

5. The amount of funds estimated as required to examine these
responsibilities during the fiscal year 1948 is \$1,900,000. Although
the justification of Project 680 - meteorological and climatological
Research and Development, is not listed in the 3 February 1947 revised
Issue of the Engineering Division Research and Development Program,
Fiscal Year 1948, it is listed in the "Justification of Estimates,
F.Y. 1948, for Air Corps, Army (about May -47 - 1-20-47) page 194
of the report, identification number 7-5768, AF. It is planned that
this amount of funds will be defended by the Assistant Chief of Air
Staff -4 and made available for accomplishing the research and develop-
ment in meteorology and related geophysical fields.

6. With further reference to funds requested for the F.Y. 1949
Project 680-11, Atmospheric Research and applied scientific research
of the upper atmosphere, a total sum of \$6,000,000 has been specified
on page 260 of the Engineering Division "Justification of Estimates,
Fiscal Year 1949 Research and Development Program", dated 20 May 1947.
The amount of funds asked will be required to accomplish the work
included in the responsibilities assigned to the Air Materiel Command,
And it is recommended that adequate support be given to obtain the
amounts need for the Fiscal Years 1948 and 1949.

1 Include. - cy AFDRE-2A
Ltr 3-26-47, same subj.

N. F. TWINING
Lieutenant General, U.S.A.
Commanding

CC to AC/???

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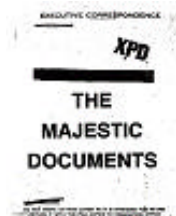
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